

Message Text

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ORIGIN AEC-11

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TO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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TAGS: PARM, EEC, IAEA, US

SUBJ: ACCOUNTING FOR NUCLEAR MATERIALS OF U.S.ORIGIN

REF: BRUSSELS 0959, 1911

1. USAEC HAS RECOGNIZED THAT SEPARATE ACCOUNTING FOR NUCLEAR MATERIALS OF U.S. ORIGIN CREATES PROBLEMS IN CONNECTION WITH IAEA CONCEPT OF UNIFIED INVENTORY UNDER NPT SAFEGUARDS SYSTEM AND WILL LEAD TO COMPLEX ACCOUNTING BURDEN OF CONSIDERABLE MAGNITUDE IF CONTINUED INTO THE PERIOD WHEN SUPPLY BY OTHERS THAN U.S. AND INTERMINGLING OF MATERIALS BECOME PREVALENT. AS MISSION AWARE, TOTAL SOLUTION TO PROBLEM WOULD REQUIRE SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CHANGES BY USG. FOR EXAMPLE, SUGGESTION THAT EXPORTS BE PERMITTED FREELY TO ANY NPT PARTY DOES NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT LEGISLATIVE PROHIBITION RE NON-WEAPONS MILITARY USE OF US-SUPPLIED MATERIALS, WHICH USE IS

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PERMITTED UNDER NPT.

2. SHORT OF SEEKING A TOTAL SOLUTION, THERE MAY WELL BE PROCEDURES, BASED UPON THE CONCEPT OF SUBSTITUTION, WHICH WILL SIMPLIFY THE ACCOUNTING BURDEN. IN LIGHT OF OUR STUDY OF THE MATTER TO DATE, ANY SUCH PROCEDURE WOULD HAVE TO START WITH A RECOGNITION OF THE U.S. ORIGIN OF SNM AND MAINTAIN A CAPABILITY, THROUGHOUT STAGES OF THE MATERIAL'S USE, AND ANY GENERATION OF NEW SPECIAL NUCLEAR MATERIAL, TO CALCULATE WHAT FRACTION OF A GIVEN INVENTORY CATEGORY OF MATERIAL CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE U.S.-ORIGIN NUCLEAR MATERIAL, ON THE BASIS OF AGREED PRINCIPLES AS TO QUALITY AND QUANTITY. IN THE ABSENCE OF SUCH A CAPABILITY, WE QUESTION WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO ADHERE TO LEGISLATIVE RESTRICTIONS OR TO POLICIES WHICH HAVE BECOME AN INHERENT PART OF THE U.S. SUPPLY FUNCTION.

3. WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO MEET WITH EC OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON TO EXPLORE THIS QUESTION BUT WOULD WISH TO DO SO ON AN INFORMAL BASIS AND IN SMALL GROUP. WE WOULD THEREFORE PREFER NOT TO UTILIZE THE OFFICIAL SETTING OF THE JOINT TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP SINCE WE BELIEVE DISCUSSION SHOULD BE PURELY EXPLORATORY AND WITHOUT ANY BACKGROUND OF "NEGOTIATING MANDATE" ON EC SIDE. ALSO BELIEVE DISCUSSIONS AT THIS POINT WOULD BE COMPLICATED BY LARGE GROUP INCLUDING COMMUNITY'S NUCLEAR OPERATORS. BELIEVE EC OFFICIALS SHOULD AT THIS STAGE HAVE SUFFICIENT KNOWLEDGE OF OPERATORS PROBLEMS AND PRACTICES TO CONDUCT INFORMAL EXPLORATORY DISCUSSIONS.

4. MISSION COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS AS TO TIME OF DISCUSSIONS REQUESTED.
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